Daily Report

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Mediating Syria-Iraq Oil Transport Deal *[SHIHAN 8-14 Feb]* 3
Saudi Arabia To Allow PLO To Collect Tax *[MENA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Debates Future in Event of Habash Death *[SHIHAN 8-14 Feb]* 3
'Abd-Rabbuh on Composition of Peace Delegation *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Feb]* 5
Predicts Postponement of Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

State Council Communique on Security 'Excesses' *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Further Reportage on Clashes, Arrests 7
Batna Governor Says 10 Killed, 50 Injured *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Security Forces Surround Batna *[Algiers Radio]* 7
7 Sentenced in Constantine *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Djelfa FIS Leader Jailed *[Algiers Radio]* 7
FIS Calls for 'Peaceful' 14 Feb Algiers March *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Government Bans March *[Paris Radio]* 8
FIS, Fundamentalists Plan 'Islamic Military Coup' *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 3 Feb]* 8
Moderate FIS Groups Seek To Join Hamas *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Smaller Parties React To Boudiaf Interview *[APS]* 8
'Committee of National Reconciliation' Formed *[APS]* 9
Union Urges 'Irrevocable Break' With 'Old Order' *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Newspapers Comment on Political Developments *[APS]* 9
Banks Postpone Signing Debt Rescheduling Accord *[Algiers Radio]* 10
* Government Use of Army Against FIS Examined *[Paris LE MONDE 24 Jan]* 10

Egypt

2 Israelis Arrested; 'Espionage Network' Uncovered *[MENA]* 11
Israeli, Daughter Jailed *[MENA]* 11
Israeli Ambassador Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Foreign Minister Urges Restoring Ties With Iran *[IRNA]* 11
Mubarak Returns From African Visits 4 Feb *[MENA]* 12
Reportage on Visit of Libyan Official al-Khafifi 12
Meets With People's Assembly Speaker *[MENA]* 12
Further on Talks With Surur *[JANA]* 12
Meets With Arab League Head *[MENA]* 12
Says Libya Follows International Law *[JANA]* 13

Libya

Tripoli Ready To Hand Over Suspects to U.S. *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Feb]* 13
Libyan Judge, Suspects' Lawyer Comment *[Editorial Report]* 13
2 Libyans With Opposition List Arrested in FRG *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Feb]* 14

Mauritania

Ministry Lifts Nouakchott, Nouadhibou Curfews *[Nouakchott Radio]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Cited on Ties With Iran, Iraq
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 4 Feb] 15

Yemen

Foreign Minister on Ties With Iran, Djibouti *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Feb]* 15
Presidential Council Member Meets Abu-Sharif *[Sanaa Radio]* 16
Government Plans 1992 Investment Program *[Aden Radio]* 16

IRAQ

Al-Anbari Affirms Cooperation With UN Inspectors *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Says Sanctions 'No Longer Legitimate' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
Al-Basrah Petrochemical Complex Repairs Completed *[INA]* 17
Regime Said 'Losing Control' Around Baghdad *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 18
Troops Deployed To Stabilize al-'Amarah *[IRNA]* 18
Opposition Claims Government Plane Shot Down *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 18
Barzani—Elections Should End Militia Rule *[AFP]* 18
Paper Criticizes UK-Kuwaiti Security Agreement *[INA]* 19
'Cheap Hypocrisy' Seen in Bush Address to Nation *[INA]* 19

ISRAEL

U.S. To Bar Inclusion of Diaspora Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
U.S. Said Promising Palestinians Deal on Return *['AL HAMISHMAR 6 Feb]* 20
U.S. To Ensure 'Substance' in Upcoming Talks *[DAVAR 6 Feb]* 20
Bank of Israel Governor To Lobby for U.S. Loans *[HA'ARETZ 6 Feb]* 20
Foreign Ministry on Cairo Espionage Arrests *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Egyptian Minister Cancels Trip *[HA'ARETZ 6 Feb]* 21
Levi Castigates France on 'Hasty' Habash Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Agreement Opens Way for Israelis To Visit Cuba *[HADASHOT 5 Feb]* 21
Status of Likud Internal Elections Viewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
East Jerusalemite's Death in Shin Bet Ward Probed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Arab Child Killed, Two Others Wounded by Gunfire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
'Dozens' of Settlers Protest at al-Maliki Home *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22

JORDAN

Prince Hasan Comments on Participation in Talks *[Amman Radio]* 23
Upcoming Talks Seen as 'Test' for U.S., Israel *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 6 Feb]* 23

LEBANON

Paper Barred From Publishing 'Awn Book Excerpts *[AFP]* 24
Other Media Censored *[AFP]* 24
Speaker al-Husayni Leaves for Vatican *[Beirut Radio]* 24

SYRIA

Loan Guarantees to Israel Would Kill Peace Hopes *[Damascus Radio]* 25

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Meets With Opposition Leaders 26
Hekmatyar Urges Replacing 'Puppet Regime' *[AFP]* 26
Najibollah Not Invited to UN Talks *[AFP]* 26

Bangladesh

German Minister Discusses Ties With Rahman *[Dhaka International]* 27

India

Gun Battles Reported in Kashmir *[AFP]* 27
Government Warns Pakistan Against Border Crossing *[Delhi Radio]* 27
Janata Dal Dissidents Elect President *[Delhi Radio]* 28

Iran

Argentina Cancels Nuclear Agreement With Iran *[Tehran TV]* 28
Air Force Deploys MiG-29, Sukhoy-24, F-7 Planes *[IRNA]* 28
Velayati Says Rushdie Death Sentence 'Not Changed' *[AFP]* 28
Crowds Stage Protest Demonstrations in Tehran *[Iran's Flag of Freedom]* 28

Pakistan

Indian Spokesman's Comments 'Regrettable' *[Islamabad Radio]* 29
Kashmir Solidarity Day Speeches, Clashes Reported *[Pakistan TV]* 29

Libya

Tripoli is "prepared" to send the suspects in the Lockerbie case to the United States provided they would not be subject to interrogation by U.S. security authorities, "a senior Libyan official who wishes to remain anonymous" told the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Commenting on the case, the suspects' lawyer told the Cairo paper AL-AHALI that his clients are "absolutely not" connected with Libyan intelligence. Two Libyans detained at Frankfurt airport were carrying lists of opposition members, the London paper AL-HAYAH disclosed.

Iraq

The ambassador to the United Nations stressed his country's "commitment to cooperating with the UN inspection teams," terming reports to the contrary as "baseless," Baghdad radio reported. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari also denied that the country had canceled talks with the United Nations aimed at resuming oil exports, saying that "because the unfair conditions still exist, however, Iraq found that the continuation of the talks would not be fruitful," the radio continued. After the UN's decision to maintain economic sanctions against the country, al-Anbari said that Iraq has abided by 90 percent of Resolution 687, and that the sanctions were "no longer legitimate," according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Algeria

The Higher State Council said in a communique that "excesses" by the security forces in Batna "are to be condemned," according to Algiers radio. The Council reiterated its respect for rights, democratic freedoms, and the activities of political parties "as long as they rule out physical or verbal violence," the radio continued. The Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, urged its supporters to participate in a "peaceful and national march" on 14 February in Algiers, the radio continued; the government banned the march, however, emphasizing the "firm determination to repress any violence from wherever it may come," Paris radio noted. The Cairo paper ROSE AL-YUSUF reported that the FIS and "Arab fundamentalists" are preparing for an "Islamic military coup," either as a mutiny by junior officers or by encouraging disobedience.

Israel

Washington agrees not to include diaspora Palestinians in the next round of peace talks, Jerusalem television reported. 'AL HAMISHMAR, however, charged that Washington will support a Palestinian demand that refugees from the 1967 war will be allowed to return to their West Bank homes. The foreign minister told the Knesset that France's announcement that it did not have an Israeli extradition request for George Habash is "regrettable and not altogether candid," Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Two Israeli Arabs and an Egyptian were arrested on charges of espionage on behalf of "a regional country," MENA reported, adding that the Egyptian was later released. The Israeli ambassador said his country will treat the case as a consular affair, Jerusalem radio reported. In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry's response was "very careful," noting that Israel was not mentioned in initial reports, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The Egyptian tourism minister canceled his visit to Israel, according to HA'ARETZ, which cited a denial by "official elements in Israel" that the cancellation had anything to do with the arrests. Speaking at a Nonaligned Movement conference in Cyprus, the foreign minister said "there should be relations" with Iran, IRNA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat is mediating talks between Baghdad and Damascus aimed at allowing Iraq to export its oil via Syria, according to "well-informed political sources" in Amman cited by SHIHAN, which also declared that the Syrian and Iraqi oil ministers met in Cairo in January to discuss the Syrian deal.

Iran

MiG-29, Su-24, and F-7 aircraft were deployed, which leaves the Air Force in a "very good position," the Air Force commander told IRNA. Argentina canceled an agreement to cooperate on nuclear research "because of mounting pressure from Washington," Tehran television reported.

Pakistan

The government spokesman expressed "deep regrets" at the "content, tone, and unfriendly manner" of the statement by India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman in response to the Pakistani ambassador's statements on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Islamabad radio reported. The Pakistani spokesman denied that the ambassador's statements could be construed as "aiming to disrupt" the normalization of bilateral relations, and expressed hope that India will ensure that such "impetuous" and "virulent" statements are not repeated.

India

The government summoned the Pakistani ambassador to tell him of the "firm measures" it would take against an attempt to cross the Line of Control in Kashmir, Delhi radio reported; the envoy was told of New Delhi's "serious concern" over several related issues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Mediating Syria-Iraq Oil Transport Deal

JN0602083492 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 8-14 Feb 92 p 9

[Text] Well-informed political sources here in Amman are talking about Palestinian mediation, carried out by President 'Arafat personally, which may result in an agreement between Syria and Iraq to export Iraqi oil via Syria, as was the case in the past before Syria decided to close the Iraqi oil pipeline in 1981.

These sources say that in his recent, top-secret visit to Iraq, 'Arafat told President Saddam that President al-Asad had told him that Syria agrees to allow the export of Iraqi oil via its territory, provided that Iraq reaches an agreement with the United Nations on the resumption of oil exports.

These sources say the Syrian offer was generous. Syria has agreed to charge a tariff less than what Turkey is asking for. Turkey wants to charge Iraq four times the tariff it used to charge in the past, which was also much higher that what Syria used to charge when Iraqi oil was transported via its territory. Syria, meanwhile, has agreed to charge Iraq a tariff only three times the tariff it used to charge in the past.

The sources say that Iraq accepted the Syrian offer and that a secret meeting was held a month ago between the Iraqi and Syrian oil ministers in Cairo to discuss the technical details relating to this subject.

Saudi Arabia To Allow PLO To Collect Tax

NC0502221392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Reliable Palestinian sources in Cairo have said that Saudi Arabia has recently agreed to let the PLO collect the tax levied on the 120,000 Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia.

The sources noted that the remittances of Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia are currently running at around $5.5 million a month.

The same sources said also that Kuwait has cashed part of the emoluments due Palestinians who left Kuwait during the Gulf crisis. The emoluments included end-of-service rewards and Palestinian bank deposits.

The sources explained that the final estimates of Palestinian losses from the Gulf crisis reach $8 billion and that the UN compensation fund is expected to make up part of these losses.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Debates Future in Event of Habash Death

JN0602120592 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 8-14 Feb 92 p 10

[Report by Nidal Mansur: "'Wadi' Haddad Resurrected! Who Leaked the Secret of Habash's Arrival in Paris?"]

[Text] Two images appeared before the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] when the French judiciary issued a warrant to detain "Doctor" George Habash: First, Wadi' Haddad [a PFLP leader and cofounder of the Arab Nationalist Movement, who died in the late seventies], who horrified Western security and intelligence agencies; and, second, the future of the PFLP if the doctor, who has been leading the organization since it was founded, is gone.

Paris witnessed the event that awoke history from its sleep. French police reopened files that brought to life Wadi' Haddad with his mysterious and unique personality. Security agencies, which did not know Wadi' until he was dead, still fear him. At the same time, Haddad is still a "hero" for PFLP members and Arab militants.

In fact Habash was paying old dues in Paris and facing trial on behalf of Wadi' Haddad, who had the only answer to a question that has haunted many PFLP members in more than one Arab capital: What would have happened had Israel been able to force France to extradite the doctor to face trial in the occupied territories on charges of terrorism? Would—as with Noriega—nothing be done?

In its statement, the PFLP did not specify the kind of response it would make if France continued to detain the doctor. The statement, however, was not lacking an implicit threat.

One question bothered the PFLP leadership: How was the news about the doctor's travel to Paris leaked, and how was it that the media were waiting for him at the airport?

A senior PFLP official is cited as saying that the doctor's travel was top secret—even the International Red Cross was officially notified of Habash's arrival only hours before he actually arrived at the airport. The official says President 'Arafat's office was responsible for contacting the French authorities to obtain permission for the doctor to receive treatment in Paris. He wonders if Palestinian sources were responsible for leaking the news.

Informed Palestinian sources told SHIHAN that a leading official in the Palestinian security organ, whom they did not name, leaked the news to a rightist French journalist who works for LE MONDE in the hope of bolstering his reputation with the French security agencies, which still refuse to deal with him as a successor to

Abu- Iyad [Salah Khalaf], who was the first Palestinian official to establish strong ties in the security field with Paris.

Western diplomats in Amman did not rule out the possibility that France, which, without any formalities canceled the order to detain Habash and allowed him to leave, has received many threats and urgent reports from its diplomatic missions in the world warning of serious dangers to its interests and nationals.

A senior security official in a Western capital says the PFLP is the world's number one organization in terms of connections with organizations and groups accused of terrorism. Years ago, the PFLP backed many of the European organizations, such as the Irish Republican Army, the Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany, and the Direct Action group in France, as well as many of the revolutionary groups in the world. At the same time, the PFLP maintains strong ties with the fundamentalist trends, such as Hizballah in Lebanon, which was responsible for the abduction of many Westerners.

The same official, who lived for a long time in the Middle East, does not conceal the fact that the PFLP, the second most powerful organization in the Palestinian arena after Fatah, has greatly distanced itself from the line of violence and halted all external operations in recent years. He stresses, however, that Wadi' Haddad's line—which for many years was responsible for external operations, including hijackings—still exists in the PFLP.

He says: A decision to continue to detain Habash, bring him to trial, or yield to Israeli pressures to extradite him, would have cost France very, very dearly. I am not exaggerating when I say that such a decision by France would have been more serious than its decision to join the Gulf war. The cost of such a decision would have been very high; it would have been like someone plunging a dagger in his own heart.

So, Wadi' Haddad was not absent from this dramatic event. This was the reason that prompted the leftist member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, Mansur Murad, to raise that option during a political meeting organized to discuss France's decision to hold Dr. Habash.

Deputy Murad, who years ago took part in military operations against an Israeli tourism agency in Rome, said: "We cannot stop the young men from doing anything. France must remember that it has interests in the Arab states!" Mansur's argument was widely accepted during the meeting, despite the fact some conferees vehemently opposed it.

A PFLP leader says the detention order issued by the French authorities without any preliminaries was a political maneuver, a provocation, and a cheap means to appease Israel and the United States. He says: "We were certain that France would not become further involved in this affair, and that it would try to please the Palestinians and the Arabs by allowing him to leave Paris as if nothing has happened." "However," he adds, "something in the relations with France has been broken, and it cannot be repaired."

Paris provided the detonator for the event. However, the demise of the doctor, who has not been feeling well for some time now and who is expected to return to the Jordanian capital for treatment at the King Husayn Medical Center, remains the most important event and question. What if the doctor goes?

Habash's demise and absence from the PFLP is a question which not many of the PFLP leaders have even thought about. The doctor's illness and deteriorating health has made such a question legitimate and dominant. The PFLP has begun trying to put its house in order without the doctor, who has been leading it since it was founded in the late 1960's, and who was, at every Arab and Palestinian turning point, the "safety valve" and the stability factor that maintained its cohesion and prevented it from collapse and division.

Information from inside the PFLP confirms that Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], the assistant secretary general and former PLO Executive Committee member, is the one who is trying to take control of the PFLP leadership, and the one who is trying to steer the PFLP's boat and play the same role as that played by the doctor.

The same information indicates that nominating 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PFLP Political Bureau member, to the post of PLO Executive Committee member instead of Abu-'Ali Mustafa was a calculated step, which sought, principally, to free Abu-'Ali Mustafa to run the PFLP's affairs. The question is: Can he do that? Can he play the same role to balance things in the PFLP with the same strength and wisdom as the doctor? Will he be accepted by the PFLP leaders and members, who accepted, and still accept, their former leader, whose name is not only associated with PFLP and the contemporary Palestinian revolution alone, but also with the Arab liberation movement, as well as the Arab Nationalist Movement, which he founded.

The PFLP, which is second only to Fatah, has, for a long time, been witnessing a conflict between two political trends. That conflict was exacerbated with the PLO's acceptance of dealing with the political settlement plan, thus widening the gap between the political ideas advocated by the PFLP when it was founded and the current political reality. There seems to be no meeting points between the two after all this time, in which revolutionary concepts, names, and meanings have changed. Here, then, lies the bitter conflict.

One can draw an analogy on past recent experience. Bassam Abu-Sharif, who is now considered the most enthusiastic supporter and theoretician of the political settlement in the Palestinian leadership, was a leading figure in the PFLP. The same story may be repeated again if the doctor is gone, but in a much more critical

way. The matter may go beyond the departure of some of the leading figures from the PFLP to go as far as the emergence of more than one political trend.

Sources close to the PFLP have revealed that Political Bureau members Taysir Qubba'ah and Salah Salah are leading a trend that calls for reassessing the PFLP's position on the settlement and for adopting a realistic position. They prefer participation in the current settlement process to boycotting it. Qubba'ah and Salah have supporters within the PFLP's ranks, although that trend does not enjoy large support.

The other trend, described as hard-line, rejects the political settlements and calls on the PFLP to take a firmer stance to face "the PLO's deviation." That trend is not pleased with the PFLP's decision to only freeze its membership in the PLO Executive Committee, but also demands that it leaves the PLO's institutions. The trend is led by Abu-Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad, Abu-Nidal Musallami, and Sabir Muhyi-al-Din.

The same sources say that al-Yamani submitted his resignation almost three months ago in protest against the PFLP's political stand. Other leading figures in the PFLP, however, say al-Yamani resigned because of his old age and because he wants to devote all his time to writing. The hard-line trend draws most of its support from the military, especially since Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad is the PFLP's military official. Information from Lebanon says the [PFLP in the] Lebanon Region supports this trend and opposes the recent positions adopted by the PFLP.

That conflict reflects the political aspect of the differences between the two trends. There are, however, organizational aspects also. The PFLP's general congress has not met for almost 10 years now, and this is causing a problem within the PFLP. Leading PFLP members believe there is a pressing need now to convene that congress, especially in the light of the doctor's illness.

At the same time, the PFLP faces another organizational problem in Jordan. The Popular Front Organization, the PFLP's wing in Jordan, has changed its status to an independent Jordanian party called the Popular Unity Party. The step was strongly opposed by some of the Organization's members. Some had even resigned, insisting that they want to remain members of the PFLP. So far, neither the PFLP nor the new Popular Unity Party have been able to resolve the overlap between the two organizations on all levels.

A leading figure in the Popular Unity Party, which concluded its first congress a few days ago, says this issue is very complicated and cannot be resolved by a decision [from above]. He also says the congress revealed more than one trend. Some members called for further independence from the PFLP. Others still believe the party is an indivisible part of the PFLP and that the change in the name and banner was only for political reasons.

These are the two pictures that hovered over the PFLP: Wadi' Haddad, who was brought back to life in Paris, and the doctor's illness, which has raised the possibility of his departure.

The PFLP is, then, expecting some dramatic events, which may be even more serious and dramatic than the hours in which the doctor was detained in Paris.

If the doctor has caused an earthquake inside the French Government in a pre-election phase, the same earthquake may spread to his "house," which he has been leading for over 30 years.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Composition of Peace Delegation

LD0602085692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
1 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, by Ruba al-Husari in Moscow; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husari] Will the Palestinians participate in the meetings of the committees stemming from the Moscow conference, considering that the United States supports expanded Palestinian representation, which you consider a positive step forward? If so, what form will such participation take?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There is no change in the position we adopted before that conference. We are prepared to participate in the working committees, provided our representatives from inside and outside [the occupied territory] and from Jerusalem are accepted. This is a matter of principle. The nature of the conference requires comprehensive Palestinian representation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husari] During his meeting with Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi in Moscow, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed to the participation in the working committees of Palestinians from outside the occupied territory. Will the PLO appoint representatives from the diaspora to these committees?

['Abd-Rabbuh] From Jerusalem, too, not just from the diaspora. To exclude the Jerusalem representatives would mean excluding all the Palestinian people's representatives. Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian homeland, and our people there are part of the Palestinian people. We will never accept any formula that separates our people inside the occupied territory from our people outside it and our people in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The Americans regard the Jerusalem issue as complicated because of Israel's well-known policy on the city, but we see this (multilateral) conference as an international conference which should not be subject to Israeli conditions. If it had been subject to Israeli conditons, the Moscow opening session would not have been held. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husari] Do you see any difference between participation by Palestinians from the diaspora and PLO participation as a representative body?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Participation by Palestinians from inside and outside (the occupied territory) means a PLO presence. The PLO is a political body whose task is to represent the Palestinian people and to defend their rights. When comprehensive representation from inside and outside the occupied territory is assured, it means that a PLO presence is assured, regardless of the names of the individuals who attend. The PLO wants comprehensive Palestinian representation because that is its role. Any undermining of such representation would mean undermining that role.

[Al-Husari] What did the Palestinians gain or lose from being in Moscow?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We lost nothing. We presented our just case and reaffirmed our right to full representation, like all the other delegations. There was considerable understanding of our position at the conference. The Americans were unable to produce a single argument against that position, and in the end they had to say that they would support some of the Palestinian demands submitted to the conference.

Our demands were realistic and logical. How could the issue of the refugees be discussed without their representatives' being present? How could matters of economic development and future relations between the states of the region be discussed in the absence of the Palestinian people who carried the burdens of the conflict for over 40 years? Those who tried to oppose the Palestinian position finally found themselves isolated. The Palestinians were able to reaffirm at the conference that they are the same people both inside and outside the conference and that they have a single interlinked cause which is the key to the settlement of the region's problems and crises. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husari] The Arab delegations in Moscow did not include one from Syria. What effect will that have on Syrian-PLO relations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I imagine that Syria fully appreciates the Palestinians' position, their refusal to enter the conference hall, their insistence on their position on representation and on Arab coordination, and the fact that their views are in harmony with most of the views that it expressed about the conference. Syria wants substantial progress (in the bilateral negotiations) before the start of multilateral negotiations. We believe that the conference should not proceed separately and in isolation from the bilateral negotiations. No steps should be taken in the multilateral negotiations unless they enhance the bilateral negotiations in the first place. In essence, therefore, the Syrian and Palestinian positions are in agreement.

[Al-Husari] But the Syrian conditions for participation in the multilateral negotiations are not the same as the Palestinian conditions.

['Abd-Rabbuh] That is because of the difference in circumstances and situations—not in the political assessment. [passage omitted]

Predicts Postponement of Talks

LD0502203292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh predicts that the fourth round of the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, set to be held in New York this month, will be postponed until 27 February.

In press statements published today in Tunis, he said that there are parties within the U.S. Administration that would like to postpone this round until after 21 February, the date U.S. Congress debates Israel's request for U.S. loan guarantees of $10 billion required to help absorb new immigrants to Israel.

Brother 'Abd Rabbuh expresses his belief that Washington will approve the granting of guarantees to Israel totalling $2 billion over a period of five years. He added that such a step by the U.S. Administration would pose a threat to the peace process. He said that it would imply that the United States had made a policy shift to confer legitimacy upon Israeli settlements. He also reiterated the need for the adoption of a determined Arab stand in this respect.

Algeria

State Council Communique on Security 'Excesses'

LD0502195292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher State Council released a communique this evening. The fourth point of this communique concerns the events in Batna.

The Higher State Council says that it has been informed about excesses that reportedly occurred during the intervention of the security forces while safeguarding public order. Even though these are rare, such cases are to be condemned, and they justify the necessary measures to avoid their repetition.

Other points of the Higher State Council communique are explained by Naser Khiar:

[Khiar] First, the Higher State Council recalls its attachment to respect for rights, for democratic freedoms, and for the full recognition of the activities of political parties as long as they rule out physical or verbal violence.

Second, the Higher State Council dealt with the composition of the National Consultative Council, which will consist of 60 members. It will include a range of social forces from all sectors of national life. The criteria are: competence, confidence, selflessness, and devotion to the national cause free of any leanings toward any political party.

Further Reportage on Clashes, Arrests

Batna Governor Says 10 Killed, 50 Injured

LD0602143492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We have been unable to contact official quarters to get enough information concerning the toll of these incidents. However, a statement made by the Batna governor to APS emphasized that about 10 people were killed since the beginning of these disturbances and 50 injured. The security forces are currently deployed in major strategic places in the city.

Security Forces Surround Batna

LD0502151592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] In Batna the town center remains surrounded by the security forces following the disturbances which took place throughout yesterday and which led to a number of deaths and injuries. Our correspondent has sent us this report on the latest developments:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] After yesterday's violent clashes in Batna between the security forces and supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front, at this very moment the security forces have brought the situation in the city under control after a group of demonstrators tried to gather again in the main streets of the town center, which remains closed to pedestrians. Our information is that traffic in these areas remains extremely difficult.

We have also learned from the national gendarmerie that yesterday's clashes resulted in 36 people injured and five others dead. The same source said that among the dead there was an elderly woman and a young man not exceeding 20 years of age. The other three dead are all from outside Batna Province—in other words, they did not live in the region.

The security forces also managed to seize an important quantity of explosives which were hidden in a mosque in one of the districts in Batna. [end recording]

7 Sentenced in Constantine

LD0602084692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Today's issue of the EL-MOUDJAHID paper says that a Constantine court has handed out jail sentences of between three to six months against seven people, while four others were released. The 11 defendants were arrested during last Tuesday's demonstrations in Constantine on charges of rebellion and harming public security.

On the other hand, EL-MOUDJAHID says that the national gendarmerie in Hammadia last Monday arrested six Islamic Salvation Front militants in Bordj Bou Areridj on charges of inciting violence and circulating cassettes concerning the events of last June.

Djelfa FIS Leader Jailed

LD0502134492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Report from Djelfa by correspondent Mohamed Ghani]

[Text] We learned today from the information service and the Djelfa Judiciary Council that the chairman of the Djelfa Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] executive bureau gave himself up to justice yesterday following several accusations against him, including inciting armed gatherings, humiliating a civil servant and the apparatus of the state, and impersonating an imam.

According to the source, the defendant did this last Friday when he snatched the microphone from the hands of the imam and began to deliver a seditious sermon in which he attacked the state apparatus. The source adds that these acts were confirmed by the security services and the supervisor of religious affairs in the province. Last night he was brought before the investigating judge who, after interrogating him, ordered that he be put in preventative custody.

FIS Calls for 'Peaceful' 14 Feb Algiers March

LD0502180192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1600 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has called upon its militants to participate in—I quote—a peaceful and national march, which it intends to organize on 14 February after the Friday prayers. The march will proceed from 1 May Square to Martyrs Square [in central Algiers].

The appeal is signed by Mr. Abderrazak Radjal, the official in charge of the FIS national information commission.

The objective of the march is—I quote—to end political piracy, to continue the free electoral process, and to demand the release of political prisoners, particularly the FIS leaders—end of quote.

Government Bans March

LD0602015792 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2300 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Algerian authorities have banned the Islamic Salvation Front march scheduled for 14 February. The collective presidential leadership states its firm determination to repress any violence from wherever it may come.

On the other hand, it is reported in Algiers that the situation in Batna is under control. [passage omitted]

FIS, Fundamentalists Plan 'Islamic Military Coup'

NC0602095392 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Feb 92 p 12

[Report by 'Abdallah Kamal and Tariq Hasan]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] and Arab fundamentalist movements are preparing for an Islamic military coup involving NCO's [noncommissioned officers] and soldiers.

According to our information, Arab fundamentalist movements have decided to go ahead because they believe that the Algerian Army is not isolated from Algerian society and that many in the military could belong to the FIS, particularly those who joined the Army in the past 20 years.

In their analysis, the movements—which are based in Khartoum and hide behind the popular Arab Islamic Conference Organization—say: The Algerian Army was an ideological establishment controlled by the Liberation Front. Things will change now that the one-party system has disappeared with the start of the age of party pluralism.

Arab diplomatic circles believe that the supposed coup will be staged in one of two ways: as a mutiny by junior officers; or by encouraging disobedience, involving the Army in numerous problems, and turning the situation in favor of the FIS.

But what will the FIS do when it takes power?

Arab fundamentalist circles believe that it will end up facing the same crisis as the previous regime and will lose popular support because it lacks a program.

Sudanese Islamic Front leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi is studying this issue and preparing a program which will suit Algeria and with which the FIS can rule.

Following reports that the FIS-controlled municipal councils will be dissolved, Arab fundamentalist movements have started preparing to extend "emergency" material aid to the FIS, relying on Iranian and Arab money.

As they prepare for the next steps in Algeria at their center in Khartoum, these movements will begin a sharp attack on Egypt—the first signs of which are appearing in Sudan—because Egypt is the most important link in the Middle East. They will also implement Sudanese-Iranian understanding, which is gaining momentum.

Moderate FIS Groups Seek To Join Hamas

LD0402151192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] In today's issue the ES-SALAM newspaper says that it has learned from sources close to the leadership of the Islamic Society Movement [Hamas] that groups from one of the wings of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] renowned for its moderation have taken the initiative in contacting the Hamas leadership.

Quoting the same sources, the paper states that these groups expressed their willingness to join the movement and struggle within its ranks in order to achieve the Islamic objective. ES-SALAM indicated that the groups have become convinced that attaining the Islamic objective requires the adoption of gradualism [marhaliyyah], objectivity, and realism as a method and action and justice as a slogan.

Smaller Parties React To Boudiaf Interview

LD0502131692 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, 05/02/92 (APS)—The interview of Boudiaf, president of the Higher State Committee [as received] released on Monday by the national entreprise of television (ENTV) and during which intentions of the Higher State Committee (HCE) were exposed raised divergent reactions in the opposition. While certain parties favourably welcome the intervention of Boudiaf and back up "the determination" of public powers to settle down Algeria's great problems, others fear that new measures counter political activities of the opposition and ask for the resumption of dialogue. In this regard,

the Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD) which "expects concrete decisions for a better appreciation", noted in Boudiaf's speech "the engagement" of the HCE to deal with the problem of the economic relaunch and the "rehabilitation of the state".

The Party of the Socialist Vanguard (PAGS) "appreciated" the HCE president's positions because he reaffirmed the attachment to the defence of the state of right and the necessity of the political and institutional change". On its turn, the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) declared that "there is a certain will to paralyze the political parties, since then "they are not authorized to hold public meetings to explain their positions concerning what is taking place since the end of legislative elections. [quotation marks as received]

On its turn, the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development (MAJD) "appreciated" the appeal of the HCE president for "the gathering of all the forces in a democratic frame to settle down all the crises the country is living through". While favourably welcoming certain points of the intervention, parties of the Islamic tendency, Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] and Al-Nahdah, expressed their disapproval of the intervention of security forces to prevent the use of mosques for political purposes. The Hamas movement which qualifies as "serene and clear" [the] purposes of Boudiaf, pointed out that the positions of the president on the Arabo-Moslem belonging of Algeria meet the political line of its party. Al-Nahdah leader called, on another turn, for the opening of a dialogue with all the political forces and proposed the participation to the Consultative Council of the winning parties of the first round of legislative elections. He asked for the end of "measures of provocations against mosques".

'Committee of National Reconciliation' Formed

LD0402141192 Algiers APS in English 1055 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 02/02/92 (APS)—Advertising inserts announcing of a Committee of National Reconciliation are since some days regularly inserted in most of dailies of the national press. The promoters of this "enterprise" explain that the idea of this committee that is not authorized yet according to one of its main organizers, is the fruit of the reflection of a group of nationals of various views: intellectuals, management executives and businessmen." This group is "apolitical" and does not envisage to "directly" manage this project. It just seeks to be an initiator, he asserted. This project's initiators consider the advent of the Higher State Committee [as received] is a positive measure. However, they stated they took the initiative to call on the society to "take in charge its future" in political, economic and cultural fields.

The objective of this group is "the setting up of a committee composed of ten personalities from university and scientific circles beyond any ideological [word indistinct].

This committee is in charge of organizing a march or "a feast" more exactly on next Feb 17 in which "millions of historical figures of the revolution are scheduled to take part in order to seal a national reconciliation, revive patriotic values that substantially lost some of their catalyst role and block the rising of populism that might compromise the future of the country". Moreover, the promoters of this intiative pointed out that the recent political developments in Algeria engendered [word indistinct] of the foreign financial credits. Hence Feb 17 march will be mainly aimed at "proving the world the maturity of the Algerian people that still live in unity and solidarity.

Eventually, they envisaged to "translate solidarity feeling by undertaking initiatives in order to organize a telethon whose returns will serve in the creation of jobs in favour of youths.

Union Urges 'Irrevocable Break' With 'Old Order'

LD0402085892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] yesterday issued a statement in which it recalled its stands vis-a-vis the issues that concern workers and the country's future in light of developments in the political situation resulting from recent events.

The statement said that workers and millions of Algerian youth, who have been pushed to the margins, have clearly and in various ways expressed their demand for a complete and irrevocable break with every facet of the old order and for fundamental changes in every sphere. The statement also expressed the UGTA's position regarding the ways and means of a return to order in managing the affairs of the country, emphasizing the historic responsibilities for getting out of the current crisis. It also emphasized the union's determination to defend the rights of workers.

Newspapers Comment on Political Developments

LD0602095292 Algiers APS in English 1311 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, Feb 5 (APS)—The French language dailies issued Wednesday treat in their commentaries a number of national and international topical subjects. These themes mainly concern the reactions to the interview granted by the chairman of the Higher State Committee [as received], Mohamed Boudiaf, as well as "the social truth of the national population". Under the title "The Treason of Clerics", the daily "LE QUOTIDIEN

D'ALGERIE" considers in its commentary that "...Algeria gives the impression of a blocked society which expects impulsions to come from those detaining power...". Dealing with the same subject, the daily "ALGER-REPUBLICAIN" writes under the title "Boudiaf, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the Youngsters that "the wink made by Boudiaf to the youth in his latest intervention is moving. At present, it points out, Algiers, the capital is living with a true bomb: more than 200,000 unoccupied persons [as received]. Our problem, it explains, is to go towards them and tell them that they have been fooled".

On its turn, the daily "LE MATIN" analyses the same situation in a commentary entitled "True Problems" by affirming that "fourteen million Algerians live beyond the poverty threshold. To relaunch the economic machinery, to make people go back to work again is a difficult challenge which can not be won by a single man or a group of men even if they are determined ". Concerning the latest TV intervention of the Chairman of the Higher State Committee, Mohamed Boudiaf, the daily "AL-WATAN" notes the curious silence shown by a number of political parties". The Algerians, the daily underlines in a commentary entitled "Rigor", have found a man who does not use demagogy. The future of Algerians, it said, is between the hands of Algerians themselves".

Banks Postpone Signing Debt Rescheduling Accord

LD0402110992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] In Paris, it has been learned from sources at the Credit Lyonnais Bank, which heads the bank consortium, that the date for signing the agreement on the refinancing of Algeria's debt by the seven international banks has been postponed until 14 February.

According to the same sources, the date previously set for the signing was 31 January. This postponement means that Algeria will not settle its debts until the end of February.

It is recalled that the signing of the agreement was postponed because the American Trust Bank has refused to join in the agreement, despite its minor influence within the bank consortium. A banking source has refused to interpret this postponement as a positive signal and pointed out that the Trust Bank problem is still pending.

The refinancing of Algeria's debt is expected to amount to $1.5 billion, over a total period of eight years instead of two years.

* Government Use of Army Against FIS Examined

92AF0333A Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Fiction of Legality"]

[Text] The Army is keeping its promise to bring the "bearded ones" to heel. On Wednesday, 22 January, Mr. Abdelkader Hachani was taken to prison to join seven other leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), among them the two "stars" of the "party of God," Abassi Medani and Ali Benhadj. In past days the president of the provisional executive bureau had already appealed to the soldiers to stand on the side of the people, but this was the first time he had incited them—almost openly—to disobey the "despots." For this he was immediately arrested and hauled into court for "inciting soldiers to desert."

In any event, the days of the FIS are numbered. The Army had struck hard, expecting the Islamists to react angrily when the electoral process was suspended; instead, moderation prevailed. However, the Army remained watchful for any verbal "excesses" by leaders of the "party of God" and was quick to seize on any pretext to shut them up.

If the Army had only itself to consider, it would not be inhibited by diplomatic and political considerations from doing whatever was necessary to preempt Islamist violence. But because it is trying to uphold the fiction of legality, both internally and externally, and because it "shares" power with civilians of a more political (not to say civilized) mind-set, the military nomenclature is obliged to respect certain formalities in pursuing its ends.

The arrest of Mr. Hachani coincided with the announcement of a "rectification program" aimed at putting an end to "the many ways in which the sacred function of the temples of God is being degraded," to use the formulation given out by the minister of religious affairs. This almost physical reconquest of terrain abandoned many months ago to the "fools of God" has been carried out by taking control of the mosques through the naming of new imams and the banning of open-air sermons during the big Friday religious services.

Will the new regime refrain, at least for now, from dissolving the FIS, which might trigger a long-suppressed explosion of anger? Algeria's leaders should be able to thwart the "party of God" merely by enforcing legislation already on the books—the law on mosques promulgated last April prohibits partisan political sermons in the mosques—which up to now has remained a dead letter.

Rather than throw its militants into an unequal struggle against the regime in place, will the FIS opt to bide its time and wait for the situation to ripen until an opportunity that can be exploited presents itself? After all, the Islamists have all eternity in which to establish the kingdom of Allah on earth. But the new government team theoretically has only two years in which to implement the socioeconomic remedies needed to heal the country of the sickness of fundamentalism. It will probably take longer than that to put Algeria back on its feet and cure its delusions.

Egypt

2 Israelis Arrested; 'Espionage Network' Uncovered

NC0502123292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1029 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian security authorities have uncovered an espionage network working for the intelligence agency of a regional country. An Egyptian, an Israeli, and his daughter were charged with monitoring the movements of several military and strategic targets and with possessing important documents and papers.

In today's edition, AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I says that state intelligence agents arrested the three suspects—'Ali Hasan 'Atiyyah, an Egyptian social worker; 41-year-old Israeli national Faris Subhi Misrati; and his daughter, Fayiqah Subhi Misrati, a student at a language institute—after a chase in Heliopolis two days ago.

The paper reports that the Israeli and his daughter entered Egypt several times as tourists. Once inside the country they made friends with Egyptians of various classes. The Israelis claimed that they were Arab nationals.

The paper says that the women offered to marry an Egyptian in order to obtain a residence permit. She then planned to carry out plans to subvert a number of vital installations.

The paper adds that an intelligence service had sent the Israeli and his daughter to Egypt.

Senior investigative sources ordered that the suspects be detained pending further investigations. These sources, the paper notes, report that the Israeli and his daughter had made desperate attempts to obtain two passports and forged identity cards in order to elude suspicion. The sources learned that the two planned to run their operations out of rented lodgings in the al-Nuzha area of Heliopolis.

The paper says that the Egyptian and Israeli tried to escape arrest by jumping from a window. The men were arrested following a street chase. The woman was arrested inside the apartment.

The paper says that the Israeli's foot was broken in his fall. He was treated at a nearby hospital.

The paper adds that 6,000 Egyptian pounds, some dollars, and equipment used to forge documents were found in the apartment.

Israeli, Daughter Jailed

NC0502150292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—An Israeli, Faris Subhi Misrati, and his daughter, Fayiqah, were incarcerated in Turah Prison today. Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, first attorney general of the higher state security prosecution, ordered their detention on charges of espionage and collecting information on military and strategic targets and public figures in Egypt.

An Egyptian citizen, 'Ali Hasan 'Atiyyah, who was arrested with the two Israelis at an apartment that they rented in al-Nuzhah, Heliopolis, was released due to insufficient evidence of his collaboration with them.

A responsible security source said that investigations will continue to establish the complete nature of the activities of the two Israelis, who made several visits to Egypt over a short period of time disguised as tourists.

Security organs had received information on the activities of the two Israelis, who were trying to establish relations with several Egyptians, monitor military and strategic targets, and collect information on these targets.

The higher state security prosecution issued a warrant for the police to enter the apartment that the Israelis had rented in al-Nuzhah, Heliopolis. The daughter was arrested inside the apartment. Her father jumped from the balcony and broke his leg. He was treated at Heliopolis Hospital. Security authorities found important documents and forgery equipment inside the apartment. The higher state security prosecution is still investigating the case.

Israeli Ambassador Comments

TA0502135092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Efrayim Dowek said that the embassy staff had learned about the detention of the two Israelis from reading the Cairo papers. They appealed to the Egyptian authorities, who confirmed that an Israeli Arab civilian and his daughter were detained on suspicion of espionage.

The embassy staff is according the case consular treatment and will try to meet the two in the coming days. Ambassador Dowek spoke with our correspondent Gid'on Remez.

Foreign Minister Urges Restoring Ties With Iran

LD0302160792 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Larnaca, Feb. 3, IRNA—Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Monday relations between Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran should be restored.

Musa who is here for the foreign ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] told the Islamic Republic News Agency: "There must be cooperation between Iran and Egypt. There should be relations.

"The consideration of the situation in the area and the cooperation among all Muslim people would be strengthened and go in the right direction," he said.

Questioned on the future course of ties between Iran and Egypt, Musa replied, "let us hope for the best for the future."

Ties between Cairo and Tehran were cut over a decade ago. The two countries opened [words indistinct] in their capitals last year.

Asked to comment on NAM's future, Musa replied that "it depends on the work to be done by NAM and the appreciation of the events and developments on the international field."

He warned that "without acting, without appreciating the serious developments, I don't think the movement has a chance."

The 102 member NAM must assess the situation correctly to cope and live up to it, Musa added.

The 2-day ministerial meeting on the methodology and role of NAM in the new world situation began Monday.

Mubarak Returns From African Visits 4 Feb

NC0402135592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, his wife, and an accompanying delegation returned from Manama this afternoon following an African tour during which he visited Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia.

President Mubarak also visited Bahrain and met with Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

Reportage on Visit of Libyan Official al-Khafifi

Meets With People's Assembly Speaker

NC0302152792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1401 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Muhammad al-Khafifi, assistant secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, has said that his country welcomes cooperation with Egypt in various fields, especially in dealing with the crisis that Libya is experiencing because of accusations that it blew up a U.S. and a French plane.

At a meeting today with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, al-Khafifi emphasized that Libya fights and absolutely rejects religious extremism and urged that any attempt to damage relations between Egypt and Libya be contained.

For his part, Dr. Surur praised the constructive cooperation between the two countries and noted that Egypt is trying to contain Libya's current crisis.

Explaining Egypt's efforts at the peace conference, Dr. Surur said establishing peace according to Arab conditions depends on the Arabs themselves and their strength and unity, and that the world must be made aware of the power of their cooperation.

Dr. Surur spoke about extremism and its links with Islam. He urge religious awareness and noted that linking extremism, terrorism, and Islam is impermissible.

Al-Khafifi arrived yesterday at the head of a delegation from the Libyan General People's Congress on a week-long visit to Egypt.

Further on Talks With Surur

LD0502043192 Tripoli JANA in English 1615 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 4 (JANA)—Dr Ahmad Fathi Surur president of the Peoples' Assembly in the Arab Republic of Egypt expressed the stand of the Arab people in Egypt with the Great Jamahariyah in her resistance to the unjust imperialist onslaught. Dr Surur asserted that the well being of Egypt and the Jamahariyah are one and the same.

In a meeting yesterday in Cairo with the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress who is currently visiting the Arab Republic of Egypt, the president of the People's Assembly in Egypt praised the fraternal relations which bind the Great Jamahariyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

He also called for the need to help the Great Jamahariyah on all levels as this would serve the interest of the Arab nation as a whole and would hopefully bring about widespread Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

Meets With Arab League Head

NC0302180192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, today received Muhammad al-Khafifi, assistant secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, who is currently visiting Egypt at the head of a delegation of congress members.

Discussion focused on Libya's position regarding the accusations made by the United States against two Libyan nationals holding them responsible for blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1989. The meeting examined Libya's stand toward British, French, and U.S. threats against it, a stand that underlines a commitment to the UN Charter and resolutions on international legitimacy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the need for Libya to maintain its position, which is based on international legitimacy and is marked by reason and wisdom.

Says Libya Follows International Law

LD0502044992 Tripoli JANA in English 1631 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb. (JANA)—The assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress asserted that the Jamahariyah is acting in accordance with international law, the decisions of the Arab League and Libyan law in dealing with the Lockerbie incident accusations.

In a statement published yesterday in the Cairo based newspaper AL-AHRAM, he added that the Jamahariyah has always affirmed its willingness to co-operate in order to achieve a just solution to this problem by insisting on her right to preserve her sovereignty and to ensure abidance by the precepts of international legitimacy.

Libya

Tripoli Ready To Hand Over Suspects to U.S.

PM0502143892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Senior Libyan Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We Are Prepared To Hand Over the Accused to Washington Provided They Are Not Interrogated by U.S. Security"]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Washington, Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, and news agencies—Libyan Chairman [as published] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has stated that a "settlement" is possible to avoid the imposition of UN sanctions against Libya, noting that his country is the scapegoat in the cases of the U.S. and French airliners' bombings.

This came in an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a senior Libyan official who preferred to remain anonymous has emphasized that his country expects a new U.S. escalation through the UN Security Council early next week—next Monday, specifically—but, in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he ruled out any military operation at present. The expected measure, he said, will at any rate seek to impose a blockade against Libya similar to the current blockade against Iraq.

The official—who is considered to be one of the people directly following up the crisis with the United States—revealed that the UN secretary general's envoy who visited Tripoli did not bring anything new with him and that all he brought was a notification to the Libyan leadership of the UN Security Council's resolution calling on Libya to cooperate with the United Nations and hand over the two accused men in the cases of the U.S. and French airliner incidents.

The Libyan official said that his country has expressed a willingness to cooperate "to the utmost" on this matter. He added that the Libyan leadership informed the UN envoy that it was willing to hand over the two wanted Libyans to the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, or any neutral party. He emphasized that Tripoli was even prepared to send them to the United States provided they are not subjected to any secret interrogation by U.S. security organs.

The official said that his country feared that if the two wanted men were handed over to the United States, they would be given to the FBI, which would certainly brainwash them and dictate confessions to them that would be used as a pretext for requesting that Libyan officials be handed over and consequently as an excuse for a military attack against Libya.

The official said that his country could identify the Libyan citizen who, according to the U.S. authorities, will be the prosecution witness in that case. This person, he said, was an employee of a Libyan embassy abroad. He affirmed that Libya had documents and evidence that this person is mentally deranged. He added that his country would request that he be referred to a medical team to confirm this.

The official said that he feared that the U.S. assurances to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that there would be no recourse to military action were a prelude to the expected decision to impose a blockade against Libya. He pointed out that the two accused men were in detention and that his country invited the French attorney general to come to Tripoli, to interrogate them, and to take their statements.

The Libyan official revealed, among other things, that Tripoli suggested to the Maghreb Cooperation Council that a special court be set up to try these two accused men, and that some of the Council's member states were enthusiastic about this in the beginning but soon abandoned the idea, "perhaps after receiving foreign warnings."

As to what could happen in this connection, the Libyan official said that the Libyan leadership's assessment was that the United States intended to go all the way on this matter, that it would first use the economic blockade weapon and then open the Chad front, and that the matter could develop into military action, especially if the Lockerbie case became a domestic election issue.

Libyan Judge, Suspects' Lawyer Comment

NC0502134492

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic on 29 January carries a page 7 report on an interview with Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, the "Libyan lawyer assigned to defend the suspects" charged with blowing up a U.S. and a French airliner, and counselor Ahmad Tahir al- Zawi, "the judge appointed by Libya to interrogate the two suspects." The place and date of the interview are not specified.

Asked if the two Libyan nationals are connected with Libyan intelligence, al-Ghuwayl says: "Absolutely not. The U.S. investigating authorities admitted this when

they changed the indictment to say that they were Libyan civil servants." Al-Ghuwayl adds that the suspects' relatives asked him to defend them and states that "the Libyan Government put them in custody to interrogate them."

Counselor al-Zawi was asked when the Libyan Government could hand over the citizens to other countries for interrogation. He answers that "international law, which is based on international conventions, agreements, norms, and precedents, does not support the demand to extradite the Libyan citizens for interrogation and trial. Libyan law stipulates that any Libyan who commits an act that is deemed a felony or misdemeanor abroad shall be punished under Libyan law if he returns, provided that the act is a crime in the country in which it was committed. Thus, if the circumstances warrant, the Libyan authorities alone have the right to take the appropriate legal measures against those accused and to inform the other countries that interrogation has begun. International law does not contradict this." He adds that the British and U.S. investigating authorities did not respond to his request for copies of the "documents and investigations confirming the validity of the charges."

Asked why the two Libyan citizens were arrested in the absence of incriminating evidence, al-Zawi says: "We showed goodwill by proceeding with the interrogation. Unfortunately, we did not have the material evidence gleaned from the investigation and the examination of the crash site, the debris, the black box, and eyewitness testimony." He adds that the two Libyan suspects "categorically denied" they carried out the operation. He adds: "If we presume for the sake of argument that they admitted it, this does not mean that the case is over, because it is not backed by incriminating evidence. Perhaps the confession was made under duress or to cover up for the real culprit." He continues: "If these countries really possess evidence, why do they not pass it on to the Libyan authorities?" He notes that the "major countries'" indictment is nothing but police investigations, which is why they want the suspects extradited, not to hand down punishment but rather to continue the investigations." He adds that "the whole thing is mere suspicion."

As for the "scenarios prepared by Washington," al-Zawi states that the "Security Council will once again be used as a legitimate cover, as it was with Iraq." He adds that probably "the United States will rely on its European allies to gradually adopt an economic embargo under flimsy legitimate Security Council cover."

2 Libyans With Opposition List Arrested in FRG

PM0502115892 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition: Two Libyans Arrested at Frankfurt Airport"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The "Libyan National Salvation Front," the principal Libyan opposition group, has said that Frankfurt airport authorities arrested two Libyans arriving from Tripoli last Thursday.

An authoritative source within the Front told AL-HAYAH that the airport authorities suspected the two persons when they found them in possession of lists of Libyan oppositionists residing in Germany. The source added that "coded [mushaffarah] messages" were found in the Libyans' luggage and that they were detained pending an investigation. It added that security authorities informed at least 10 of the people on the lists of the matter and asked them to take precautions. They also tightened security measures for Libyan oppositionists residing in Germany.

The Front expressed its fear of "the Libyan regime's resumption of its serial killing of oppositionists abroad."

Frankfurt airport authorities refused to deny or confirm these reports. They told AL-HAYAH that they would not comment on "security matters."

Mauritania

Ministry Lifts Nouakchott, Nouadhibou Curfews

LD0602015392 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Interior Ministry communique issued in Nouakchott on 5 February—read by announcer]

[Text] The Nouakchott and Nouadhibou curfews are lifted as of today.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Cited on Ties With Iran, Iraq

PM0602092092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT Editorial Staff: Iran Important, Good Intentions Needed To Bolster Relations"]

[Excerpts] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—"Kuwait is Arab. It has always been, and will remain, Arab. Throughout its history it has always shouldered the Arabs' cause, and it will continue to do so." These were the opening remarks by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at an "impromptu" meeting with SAWT AL-KUWAYT's editorial staff during his visit yesterday to the paper's headquarters in London, accompanied by Kuwait's ambassador to the U.K., Ghazi al-Rayyis. Shaykh Salim described the Islamic republic in Iran as playing an important role. He also said that the Damascus Declaration is not an alliance or bloc directed against anyone and that the [Gulf] Cooperation Council [GCC] states are agreed that Iran must display good intentions without interfering in the GCC states' affairs. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that Kuwait still believes in the Arab League's role, although "it broke up politically when the treacherous invasion took place. But we have paid all our dues to the League, because we believe that the principle must never die and that the League must be restored as a shelter for the oppressed and an Arab court of justice."

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah reasserted that Iraq was still trying to resort to blackmail in the case of the prisoners. He said: "But, as his highness the amir said, we will not rest until they all return safely." Asked about Kuwait's position on the states that supported or colluded with the aggression, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said: "These states owe an apology to the entire Kuwaiti people." [passage omitted]

He added that the Iranian presence in the region is important, because Iran is a neighbor, and it is unwise to disregard its role. Iran can be completely assured that the GCC states pose no security threat to it or its interests. This assurance should be mutual. Furthermore, the Damascus declaration group comprising the GCC states and the sisters Egypt and Syria cannot be a bloc or an alliance representing any threat to Iran. This declaration was based on the Arab League's principles.

Shaykh Salim said that Iran, in turn, has a role, namely, to display good intentions by not interfering in the Arab Gulf states' affairs.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister broached the economic aspect of Gulf-Iranian cooperation. He said: The Iranian and Gulf market is based on the factors for improving and developing the Gulf and Iranian economies. He added that the Gulf and Iranian markets complement one another economically.

On security cooperation he said that the GCC states hold the same ideas and views, but this does not imply a desire to form any kind of military alliances. He added that the Gulf states are exchanging views with Iran on Gulf security, so our relations are continuing within that framework. [passage omitted]

Then Shaykh Salim spoke about the future of relations with the regimes that adopted a hostile, unfair position against Kuwait during the Gulf crisis. He said: "Kuwait received an Arab blow from those who supported Iraq in its invasion and occupation of Kuwait." He emphasized that the Kuwaiti people will never forget these stances, and we "as a government and state pay attention to the Kuwaiti people's opinion of such stances."

Shaykh Salim announced that, just as they stood by Iraq, these regimes must stand up today and openly apologize to their peoples and to the people of Kuwait. He said that he was not demanding that these regimes do that... but they must do so themselves if they want to, and their apology must be very clear.

He emphasized that there is no feud with the peoples. We are Arabs and no one can change our skin. Our dispute is only with the regimes that stood against Kuwaiti rights.

Asked whether the Iraqi regime still posed a threat to Kuwait, the deputy prime minister stressed that the Baghdad regime did indeed still pose a serious threat, not only to Kuwait but alsoto the Gulf, the Arabs, and the world as a whole. What we hear about the terrorist networks financed and spread throughout the world by the Iraqi regime is a sufficient example. Also the stockpiling of destructive weapons reflects that evil regime's intentions.

Yemen

Foreign Minister on Ties With Iran, Djibouti

PM0602120992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 92 p 3

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] What is the nature, and what are the results, of Yemen's efforts to establish peace and end the civil war in Djibouti?

[Al-Iryani] The warring parties in Djibouti had asked Yemen to intervene and mediate in the interest of a peaceful settlement of the various problems. French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Alain Vivien visited Yemen twice. We sent two delegations to Djibouti and we met with some Afar leaders in Paris and Djibouti. Our mediation is based on the principle of establishing democracy and promoting a multiparty system, release of political prisoners, and dialogue between the government and the opposition to work out the principles of peaceful coexistence. We have made

some strides in that direction. We are now in the stage of discussing ways of implementing what was agreed upon. We have found the government and the opposition understanding and responsive. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Why is Yemen strengthening its relations with Iran at this particular time? How does Yemen view Iran's objectives behind the development of these relations?

[Al-Iryani] There is nothing new in Iranian-Yemeni relations. After the Iraq-Iran war these relations took their natural course. All that is going on is an expression of the fraternal and Islamic relations between the two countries and peoples with an eagerness to strengthen them.

[Hammudah] In Yemen's view, what is the significance of the joint Iranian-Sudanese-Eritrean military exercises in the Red Sea, and why did Yemen participate in them as an observer?

[Al-Iryani] Yemen received an invitation from the Sudanese Government only and it attended the exercises as an observer because of its fraternal relations with Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] What is the latest situation regarding the border demarcation agreement betweend Oman and Yemen? When will the draft agreement be submitted to the Yemeni House of Representatives for approval, bearing in mind the opposition of certain parties and organizations in al-Mahrah Governorate?

[Al-Iryani] The phenomenon of opposition in connection with various issues of interest to the public and the homeland is part of life in an atmosphere of political freedom and a multiparty system. The decisionmakers should not ignore it, but I assure you that completion of the arrangements for signing the border agreement with the fraternal Sultanate of Oman will not be delayed much longer. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] How successful have the reconciliation efforts been between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the two partners in government, and what effect have the differences between the two parties had on the effectiveness of government policies, particularly in relation to the needs and demands of the masses and the institutional merger process?

[Al-Iryani] First of all, judicious readers must have noticed that, despite press reports of differences between the party and the congress, nobody has been able to state specifically what, and how important, the differences were. That is the best proof that they were not real differences over the essentials on which the Yemeni unitary state was built, namely unity, democracy, freedom of expression, and the two-and-a-half-year transitional period that is to be followed by free and direct elections.

Differences of opinion on some details at present and in the future cannot be portrayed as political differences. The best answer to these exaggerations and allegations is the declared continuation of the alliance between the General People's Congress and the YSP after the transtional period, and their willingness to accept any other political party voluntarily wishing to join the alliance. That is a common feature in all democratic states. Had it not been for the rumors, that declaration might have been delayed until all the details of the alliance had been worked out so that it would not be minsconstrued as a departure from democracy.

I am eager to emphasize here that the alliance between the party and the congress will not undermine democracy in the slightest. It will not be different from what is now applied, for instance, in the Netherlands or in Italy. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council Member Meets Abu-Sharif

JN0502183292 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, this evening received brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. During the meeting, they discussed the relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, as well as current Arab and international developments, especially those related to the Palestine question.

The Presidential Council member stressed our country's constant support for the Palestine question and the establishment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights within the framework of international legitimacy.

For his part, brother Bassam Abu-Sharif expressed thanks and appreciation for the stand of our country—leadership, government, and people—for its noble, principled policy on the Palestine question and its stand on Dr. George Habash's recent affair in France.

Government Plans 1992 Investment Program

EA3001105692 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers, has said that the most salient question that has begun to be implemented in the national program for construction and political, economic, financial, and administrative reform is planning for an investment program for 1992 totaling 15.8 billion riyals [words indistinct]. The brother prime minister pointed out that the investment program which reaches these levels will offer new work opportunities in numerous and various fields to a number of categories of sons of the Yemeni people among the expatriates returning following the Gulf crisis. This came in a press interview with AL-SHARARAH newspaper which will be published in its 29 January issue in Hadramawt Governorate.

Al-Anbari Affirms Cooperation With UN Inspectors

JN0602122492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Iraq has reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with the UN inspection teams and said that reports leaked by some tendentious circles in this regard are baseless. This came in a statement by 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, UN permanent representative, to INA's correspondent in New York at dawn today following a series of meetings he held with Thomas Pickering, the U.S. UN representative and current president of the UN Security Council; PRC representative Li Daoyu, the coordinator of the five permanent UN representatives for this month; and with Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi, Moroccan representative and nonpermanent UN Security Council member.

In his statement, al-Anbari alluded to allegations by THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday that Iraq refuses to cooperate with the inspection teams. He said that these statements are leaked by tendentious circles and have absolutely no basis of truth.

Al-Anbari impressed on the Chinese ambassador the need to inform the five permanent members of Iraq's eagerness to avoid creating problems and to preserve the safety of and protect the inspection teams. He told INA's correspondent that some members of these teams intentionally create problems with the aim of continuing the blockade of Iraq.

Iraq's permanent representative told the UN Security Council president and the PRC ambassador separately that Iraq wants the blockade committee to speedily prepare lists of materials, such as food and medicine, which are excluded from the blockade and which no longer require the prior approval of the committee.

In the meetings, al-Anbari explained Iraq's position on all the points mentioned in the Security Council president's statement yesterday concerning the continuation of the economic blockade against Iraq. This position was explained in a factual report which Iraq had earlier distributed to the Security Council members and which became an official Security Council document.

Referring to so-called Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq, Ambassador al-Anbari said that Iraq is fully cooperating with the International Committee of the Red Cross in facilitating the tasks of its teams and the freedom of their visits. However, Iraq emphasizes that the other parties—namely, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—should do the same for the Iraqi citizens who are missing or detained on their territories.

In a later statement to INA and the ASSOCIATED PRESS, Dr. al-Anbari emphasized that Iraq has complied with all the provisions of the Security Council resolutions without the Council appreciating this. He said that 12 Security Council member states favor lifting the blockade against Iraq. However, one or two states—namely, the United States and Britain—oppose this for political reasons.

On the Vienna talks between Iraq and the United Nations, Ambassador al-Anbari explained that Iraq did not cancel the talks. Because the unfair conditions still exist, however, Iraq found that the continuation of the talks would not be fruitful.

He said that Iraq is demanding the cancellation of those inappropriate conditions, and the export of Iraqi oil on the terms of the international oil market.

Says Sanctions 'No Longer Legitimate'

JN0602065892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Following the UN Security Council's decision to maintain sanctions against Iraq, 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, has stated that his country has abided by 90 percent of Security Council Resolution 687, which set the conditions for a permanent cease-fire.

Al-Anbari said: We believe the sanctions are no longer legitimate. He added: If we have not abided 100 percent by the clauses of Resolution 687—and this is difficult to do—we have abided by 90 percent of them. He described the Council's decision to maintain a rigorous blockade against Iraq since August 1990 as arbitrary.

The Council justified maintaining the blockade by Iraq's refusal to completely abide by all UN resolutions pertaining to it, and not only Resolution 678. The Council also blames Baghdad for continuing to detain Kuwaitis, for not returning all the funds and possessions taken from Kuwait during the occupation, and for not taking advantage of the permission given to Iraq to sell $1.6 billion worth of oil to buy food in particular.

Al-Anbari once again presented his country's view that the mechanism which the United Nations has imposed on Iraq to sell its oil is so complicated that in practice it will prevent it from resuming its exports.

Al-Basrah Petrochemical Complex Repairs Completed

JN0402120092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1109 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—Engineering and technical cadres at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals have managed to rebuild the petrochemical complex in al-Basrah Governorate, southern Iraq. The complex was heavily damaged as a result of the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The complex includes chlorine, caustic soda, and ethylene units, as well as cooling towers, a water purification unit, and storage areas for finished products.

The complex produces low-intensity and high-intensity polyethylene, polyphenyl chloride, and greenhouse covers.

The complex was subjected to repeated and intensive raids during the U.S. aggression as part of the aggressor states' attempts to destroy Iraq's economic and industrial structures.

Regime Said 'Losing Control' Around Baghdad

NC0502210792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Reports say that the regime is losing control over areas surrounding Baghdad, especially areas inhabited by Shiites. The reports add that Baghdad's inhabitants are expressing their anti-regime views publicly and without fear.

Troops Deployed To Stabilize al-'Amarah

LD0602101192 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 6, IRNA—Several Iraqi Army units have been stationed on roads leading to al-'Amarah, in southern province of Maysan, an informed source told IRNA here Wednesday. The source added that the stationing of the Iraqi troops in the area came after the recent anti-regime demonstrations in al-Mashrah, al-Kahla' and al-'Amarah in Maysan Province. The anti-regime demonstrations in various Iraqi cities, including Mosul and al-'Amarah, have been intensified while the people in other Iraqi southern and northern cities are planning similar demonstrations, the source added.

According to the same source, a group of Iraqi officers, including Hamid 'Adil, Juwhar Qadir 'Aziz, Hasan Majid Ibrahim and Shakir Muhammad Mustafa, have been executed in public on grounds of disobeying Saddam's orders. He added that following the disobedience of a group of Army commanders Saddam Husayn has issued an order warning the commanders of severe punishement if they disregard his orders or fail to prevent the militarymen from deserting the Army or joining the people.

Opposition Claims Government Plane Shot Down

NC0502152292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The mujahidin of the Islamic revolution succeeded in shooting down a plane belonging to the 'Aflaqites near (?Khursabad) in the past few days. Saddam's plane crashed to the ground as it was trying to bomb our mujahidin strongholds.

In another development, Saddam's mercenaries were trying to harm the inhabitants of ('Ujayyid) by flying their helicopter to intimidate women and children. Our heroic revolutionaries, however, directed their ground defense fire at the 'Aflaqites' aircraft, which escaped in defeat.

The southern marshland and adjacent areas are still being subjected to the inhuman 'Aflaqite practices. However, the sons of our people are standing fast in heroic operations and the just executions of the criminal Saddam's henchmen.

Barzani—Elections Should End Militia Rule

NC0202083092 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By Antoine Lazerges]

[Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq, Feb 2 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani has predicted that Kurdish legislative elections slated to take place in April should help put an end to militia rule in his home region.

"In a democracy political parties have no need for militias," Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), told AFP at his headquarters here in northern Iraq.

He likewise dismissed as unnecessary a proposal by rival rebel leader Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) to set up a "military academy" for the formation of a "Kurdish Army."

"We are getting ready for peaceful and democratic elections which would provide a leadership for the country (Kurdistan) and put an end to the rule of militias," Barzani said.

Militias, he said in reference to fighters of both the DPK and the PUK and other factions, should be "dissolved" and merged within a "sole unit of peshmergas," or Kurdish fighters.

The eight-party Kurdish Front last month called for legislative elections—the first ever in Kurdistan—to select a parliament and a leader who would engage in negotiations with the central Iraqi Government to secure autonomy.

Barzani and Talabani are the two candidates for the post of "leader of Kurdistan" and choosing between them will in effect amount to a referendum for or against continuing autonomy negotiations with the Iraqi authorities.

Barzani, who last week attended a PUK congress in al-Sulaymaniyah, a key Kurdish town in northern Iraq, warned that "union between all parties is necessary" to ensure the success of the elections.

"Never again will a Kurd kill another Kurd," he had told the congress, implicitly underlining recent friction between the various factions, namely the PUK and the DPK.

Both parties last year set out on negotiations with the government of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to secure autonomy for Kurdistan. The talks foundered amid

accusations by Baghdad that the Kurds had failed to secure the safety of state employees in the north.

Barzani and Talabani have also been at odds over how to conduct the negotiations.

Talabani has accused Barzani of wanting to compromise with the Iraqi Government while the latter has gone on record as being ready to sign a deal with Baghdad "to end the sufferings of the Kurds who lost hope."

In the interview Barzani voiced hope that the elections—scheduled to take place on April 3—would provide Kurdistan with a tangible "authority" to administer the region under the control of the peshmergas.

But he cautioned that the Kurds alone would not be able to manage.

"After 20 years of combat and resistance against the central government which has leveled 4,500 Kurdish towns and villages, destroyed infrastructure, killed 25 million cattle and mined half the fields, Kurdistan will need international assistance for two or three years," he said.

"After that we will be able to manage. We have the qualified personnel to rebuild the country."

Paper Criticizes UK-Kuwaiti Security Agreement

JN0502142092 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 5, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said that the security pact Britain would sign with Kuwait with the aim of securing protection for the Kuwaiti regime from alleged threats was no more than an attempt to plunder Kuwait's oil riches in connivance with al-Sabah rulers.

In an article published today, the daily said this agreement, once signed, could give back Britain the role and influence it had lost in the Arab Gulf following the emergence of Arab popular movements and the demise of its empire.

The daily made it clear that this agreement would facilitate the presence of the British forces in Kuwait under cover of defending the Kuwaiti clique against possible dangers, let alone the fact that it would give the British Government and ministry of war full right to use Kuwait as a base to threaten security of the neighbouring Arab and foreign countries and strike at any national or progressive movement acting against its interests.

'Cheap Hypocrisy' Seen in Bush Address to Nation

JN0202104992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0728 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has emphasized that Iraq has held fast and maintained its coherence in spite of Bush and his aggression, crimes, and blockade. The paper emphasizes that the Iraqi people adhere to and rally around their historic leadership. The paper notes that it is a glorious achievement that the Iraqis managed to rebuild most of what "Bush's aggression" has destroyed.

In an article today under the headline "Bush's Crude Electoral Statement," the paper said that it is true that the Americans do not read much and prefer watching television to reading, but it is definite that the Americans will not believe the promises and ideas of Bush the liar. How then can they believe that he is capable of "changing America?"

The paper asks: Shouldn't Bush have worked to change America first and solve its worsening economic and social problems before heading out to change the world?

The paper explains that in his "electoral statement," boastful Bush bragged that the United States is "the indisputable leader of the age," that it emerged victorious from the cold war, and that it is the world's sole dominant force. Such words can neither change the Americans' convictions nor deceive them into electing Bush to a new presidential term.

The paper indicates that if Bush has managed to deceive some Americans for some of the time, he cannot deceive them all of the time, especially now that scandals have begun to surface and that the Americans have discovered that their president has lied to them and tried to deceive them in more than one speech and on more than one occasion.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says that Bush and his advisers have resorted to flattery, hypocrisy, and exposed begging. This is best proved by Bush's words to the Democrats in Congress in which he said: "I believe that in your hearts you want to put partisanship aside." Who told him that they want to set partisanship aside? Isn't this a lie, flattery, and cheap hypocrisy?

U.S. To Bar Inclusion of Diaspora Palestinians

TA0502200392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that U.S. sources informed Israel today that the U.S. Administration would refrain from including Palestinians from the diaspora in the peace talks until after the elections in Israel in a bid to prevent unnecessary crises in the talks. U.S. reports express high appreciation of the role played by Israel in the Moscow conference and say that its representatives did very well.

Meanwhile, our correspondent has learned that Egypt plans to summon all the Arab partners to the peace talks next month to hold what it terms a reassessment of the results of the talks, starting from Madrid through the next round scheduled to be held in Washington later this month.

Our correspondent adds that the Palestinians may present a detailed document in the Washington talks that will include a demand to freeze settlement. Our correspondent points out that if they do, they might bring the talks to a halt.

U.S. Said Promising Palestinians Deal on Return

TA0602091792 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Feb 92 p 5

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The United States has asked the Palestinians not to foil a possible deal between it and the Israeli Government which would allow Israel to complete the construction of the housing units it has started. They were asked this in return for a promise that, at a later stage, the United States will support the Palestinian demand that refugees from the Six-Day War be allowed to return to the West Bank. This move would eliminate the demographic imbalance caused by a large number of new settlers on the West Bank.

Palestinian sources told our correspondent that this issue was examined on the fringes of the Washington and Moscow conferences. The sources added that a U.S. working paper distinguishing between the 1967 and 1948 refugees was prepared by the U.S. Administration when Carter was President, and it is still valid. Harold Saunders, Carter's adviser, drew a distinction between the 1948 refugees, who will not be able to return to Israeli territory within the Green Line and will settle for compensation, and the 1967 refugees, who will be allowed to return to their West Bank homes.

U.S. To Ensure 'Substance' in Upcoming Talks

TA0602110492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The United States intends to take a more active part in the next round of bilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs, in order to make sure that the talks progress from procedure to substance. Reports to this effect were communicated yesterday by the Israeli Embassy in Washington to the Foreign Ministry.

The reports reinforced the assumption that the United States postponed the bilateral talks to 24 February in order to allow Secretary of State James Baker to be in the U.S. capital when they take place.

The Americans have hinted to the Israelis that the main reason for their nonintervention to date has been the desire to allow the sides to resolve procedural problems independently. The United States realizes, however, that to prevent the talks from collapsing prematurely, it will have to use its influence with the parties to advance the discussion of substance.

Meanwhile, a link is emerging between the next round of bilateral talks and Congress and administration discussions of the aliyah loan guarantees requested by Israel. The Syrians and the Palestinians have conveyed messages to the administration that an approval of the guarantees that is unaccompanied by a settlement freeze will give rise to a new situation demanding a reassessment of their participation in the peace process.

Bank of Israel Governor To Lobby for U.S. Loans

TA0602121192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 92 p A9

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] Professor Ya'aqov Frenkel, governor of the Bank of Israel, will travel to Washington this month to attempt to persuade administration officials and congressmen to approve Israel's request for the loan guarantees. His trip is scheduled for the beginning of the congressional hearings on this issue, expected on 21 February.

"The entire issue of the guarantees has shifted to a higher gear. The issue is now more concrete. Israel's ambassador will meet the secretary of state this week, and we already have a date for the opening of the congressional hearings. The entire Israeli economy will be observed closely over the next few days," Frenkel said.

According to U.S. law a representative of a foreign government may not participate in the hearings. Frenkel, who will not be able to testify before the congressional committee, said that the purpose of his trip is to head the Israeli lobby that will try to convince the administration to give Israel the guarantees. Frenkel is expected to meet, among others, members of the Congressional Research Service and Department of Treasury officials, who will eventually determine the commission Israel would pay if and when it gets the guarantees.

The bank governor will try to convince the U.S. officials that Israel has been, and will continue to be, able to pay

its debts. He will stress the progress Israel's economy has made in recent years in terms of economic reforms, mainly on the capital market.

Foreign Ministry on Cairo Espionage Arrests

TA0602064892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem was very careful this morning in its treatment of the reports concerning the Israeli Arab father and daughter who were detained in Egypt. The London-based Saudi paper, which was the first to report the story, says nothing at all about the two being suspected of spying for Israel, they are saying here. Israel, they stress, was not even mentioned in the original report. If the story is in fact about espionage, it is about suspicions of espionage for some Middle Eastern country. The inquiry the Israeli Embassy in Cairo made yesterday with the Egyptian authorities, after the report was made public in Cairo as well, revealed that nothing has been said regarding the two being suspected of espionage.

So far, the Foreign Ministry has received no request from other family members to intervene on behalf of the two. This, however, will be done once Egypt allows it. The matter will apparently receive routine consular treatment, as is the case whenever an Israeli citizen is detained in a foreign country. The Israeli consul in Cairo will have to wait until the initial investigation ends, and only then will he be able to meet with the two. The picture may be clearer after this meeting.

Egyptian Minister Cancels Trip

TA0602113692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 92 p A4

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpts] Egyptian Tourism Minister Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Latif Sultan has for the third time canceled his scheduled visit to Israel. Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni conveyed a message yesterday to the Foreign Ministry saying that the Egyptian minister was unable to make the visit "in view of important tasks requiring his presence in Egypt at this time." Official elements in Israel have denied any connection between the last-minute cancellation and yesterday's reports about the detention of suspected Israeli spies in Egypt.

The Egyptian tourism minister was due to start a seven-day visit to Israel on 9 February. [passage omitted]

The Tourism Ministry spokesman said yesterday that Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat's invitation to his Egyptian counterpart remains valid. [passage omitted]

Levi Castigates France on 'Hasty' Habash Release

TA0502162092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that France's announcement that it did not have an Israeli extradition request for George Habash is regrettable and not altogether candid. The foreign minister noted that last Friday, Israel informed France that it was getting ready to issue the extradition request, but Habash's hasty release nipped all these preparations in the bud. The minister pointed out that Habash's release cast aspersions on France's prestige, democracy, and institutions. He added that Israel would leave no stone unturned until the whole truth comes out.

Our Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the foreign minister was speaking in the Knesset in reply to a motion to the agenda. In the preceding debate, Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi burned a picture of Habash.

Agreement Opens Way for Israelis To Visit Cuba

TA0502195792 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 92 p 22

[Report by Navit Zomer]

[Text] Israelis will soon be able to visit Cuba, in the wake of an exclusive agreement signed by the Israeli travel agency Natour and Havana Tours, Cuba's state tourism company. Two top executives of the Cuban company came to Israel earlier this week and signed the agreement.

The director of Natour told HADASHOT that the agreement constitutes an important breakthrough and was initiated by the Cubans. To date, Israelis had been banned from entering Cuban territory.

Status of Likud Internal Elections Viewed

TA0602115692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report by Leah Zinder]

[Text] The Likud is seething as the internal elections approach. The Liberal faction of the Likud, fighting to have seats allocated to them on the Likud Knesset list, lost their battle today. The Likud had refused their request, and so the Liberals filed suit against them in a Tel Aviv District Court, claiming that the present Likud Central Committee, which becomes invalid on March 3d, has no legal right to elect the Likud candidates for prime minister and for the Knesset. But Tel Aviv District Court Judge Uri Goren ruled this morning that the Central Committee may elect the candidates in order, he said, to prevent anarchy in the party. At the same time, the judge ruled that the Likud must submit its long-delayed constitution at its upcoming Central Committee meeting next Monday.

That is not the only problem facing the Liberals. Former Liberal leader, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who had left the Likud to set up his own splinter party, now says he will set up a new liberal party outside the Likud. Moda'i is also being wooed by the David Levi camp in the Likud, who will hold a rally on Sunday to urge Moda'i to return to them. Moda'i, recovering from surgery, is unavailable for comment.

David Levi himself has still not announced whether he will run against Yitzhaq Shamir and Ari'el Sharon for the top spot in the Likud. He is expected to give an indication of his intention at a rally of his supporters on Saturday night. Most political observers are laying bets that Levi will compete. They reason that even if he loses—a strong possibility—Levi will improve his chances for the No. 2 spot against Moshe Arens.

The Likud leadership has finally agreed how its Knesset list will be elected. There will be five rounds; in each, seven candidates will be elected. This arrangement is thought to favor the dominant Shamir-Arens camp.

The Likud, which tends to be short on retired Army generals, received a boost today as renowned reserves Major General Moshe Bar-Kokhba came to Prime Minister Shamir and announced that he will be a candidate for the Likud's Knesset list.

East Jerusalemite's Death in Shin Bet Ward Probed

TA0502182392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The autopsy on the body of Mustafa 'Akhawi, an inhabitant of East Jerusalem who died in the Shin Bet's ward at Hebron Prison, will be conducted Friday morning at the Abu-Kabir Forensic Center in Yafo. Israel Police's Criminal Investigation Department today began looking into the circumstances of his death, while the Prison Authority started checking whether he had received proper medical treatment. [passage omitted]

In a news conference held in East Jerusalem in the wake of this episode, Faysal al-Husayni and other Palestinian activists demanded international protection for the inhabitants of the territories. Present in the news conference were Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and Muhammad Mi'ari, as well as Dr. Sari Nusaybah, Riyad al-Maliki, and 'Akhawi's lawyers, including Israeli attorney Le'a Tzemel.

This afternoon the Bar Association in Judaea and Samaria declared a one-week general strike to protest 'Akhawi's death while in the Shin Bet's custody. Al-Husayni stressed that the transfer of 'Akhawi, an inhabitant of East Jerusalem who held an Israeli identity card, to the Shin Bet's ward at Hebron Prison proves that contrary to its official pronouncements the Israeli Government, too, regards East Jerusalem as part of the territories.

The news of 'Akhawi's death a few hours after he showed a military judge in Hebron signs of physical abuse and hemorrhages on his body triggered a response among Knesset members and human rights organizations. Betzelem sent a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, urging him to set up an independent inquiry commission to look into the causes of 'Akhawi's death and the question of the security forces' accountability in the matter.

Arab Child Killed, Two Others Wounded by Gunfire

TA0502180692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] A 12-year-old child, Ja'far Salama, was killed and two other youngsters were wounded by gunshots in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus earlier this evening. Israeli Army sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that in the course of an Army operation in the refugee camp soldiers were pelted by stones by masked men. The soldiers captured two of them.

Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus later reported that the body of a 12-year-old had been brought to the hospital and that two youngsters who sustained light injuries had been admitted for treatment. The Army is investigating the incident and the connection between the soldiers' activities in the camp and the hospital's report.

'Dozens' of Settlers Protest at al-Maliki Home

TA0602054892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Shots were fired at the Civil Administration building in Janin last night from the direction of the close by Janin refugee camp. Military sources told reporter Mark Weiss that soldiers guarding the building returned fire at the direction of the shooting. A curfew was imposed on the camp, and a number of suspects were detained during searches by soldiers. Homemade weapons, knives, and inflammatory material were confiscated.

Security forces in the Gaza Strip captured three masked activists last night. Two were arrested by Border Police as they were writing slogans on a wall in Gaza, and a third was caught in Rafah.

Reporter Mark Weiss says a petrol bomb was thrown at an Army outpost in the Tulkarm area village of 'Azzun. No one was injured and no damage was caused. Security forces carried out searches following the incident.

Dozens of Jewish settlers demonstrated last night outside the Ramallah home of Popular Front activist Dr. Riyad al-Maliki. The settlers were complaining that the authorities had not arrested al- Maliki and charged him with intifadah offenses. A large security force arrived at the scene at short notice. The settlers dispersed without incident.

Prince Hasan Comments on Participation in Talks

JN0502200292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that when we reach the decisive point in the peace negotiations, represented by Israel's insistence on the colonization policy, their continued rejection of the land for peace principle, and their preventing the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora and occupied Arab Jerusalem in the next round of peace negotiations, then we will reach the point where the game is a draw.

In an interview with the German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, his highness added that in that case, Jordan should think about the continuation of their participation in the peace negotiations.

His highness stressed the need to do everything possible to rescue the negotiations.

Upcoming Talks Seen as 'Test' for U.S., Israel

JN0602100592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Feb 92 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The U.S. Administration Put to the Test"]

[Text] The Arab parties participating in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations unanimously agree that the continuation of Israel's settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories will paralyze and perhaps put an end to the peace process.

The Arab parties calling for an immediate halt to settlement activity, especially the Palestinians and Jordanians, believe that Israel is being tested; it either agrees to stop building settlements, or continues to persist with them. By continuing its settlement activity, Israel places an insurmountable obstacle before the bilateral negotiations. The Arab sides also believe that the United States, too, is being tested. It either applies the toughest possible pressure on Israel, forcing it to stop its settlement activity by refusing to provide it with the loan guarantees—and thus rescue the peace process—or allows this process to heap one failure after another until it ends in nothing.

The settlement activity might be a bargaining chip used by Israel to wrench new Arab concessions, the least of which is public, practical, and quick normalization of relations and the invasion of Arab markets, especially the Gulf ones.

Moreover, the Arab parties unanimously adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. However, Israel refuses to say a word about its willingness to accept these resolutions and deliberately avoids adding them to the agenda of the negotiations. The principle of withdrawal for the sake of peace worries Israel, stirs its fears, and sometimes makes it angry. Israel does not believe in this principle and is not ready to accept it.

Hence, one can say that optimism over the success of the peace process is gradually beginning to dwindle. Therefore, if the Bush administration does not seriously stand against Israel's maneuvers and intransigence, the U.S. initiative to achieve peace in the region will be lost. Furthermore, this vital part of the world will remain prone to explosions, conflicts, and wars which would threaten peace in the entire world.

In any case, bilateral negotiations will resume in the next few days and both Israel and the United States will be put to the test. These negotiations will determine their credibility and true attitude toward the peace process. The Arab parties will then know what to say; they will either continue to participate in the peace process in the hope of achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, or completely turn their backs on everything said by any U.S. Administration.

Paper Barred From Publishing 'Awn Book Excerpts

NC0502160192 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Beirut, Feb 5 (AFP)—The Lebanese internal security authorities have banned the publication by a newspaper here of excerpts of a book dedicated to renegade Christian leader General Michel 'Awn, the AL-NAHAR daily reported Wednesday.

AL-NAHAR had started Tuesday to publish excerpts of "The General's Bets," which is expected to reach bookstores soon in both French and Arabic.

Internal Security chief Raymond Raphael visited the newspaper late Tuesday to inform editors of the ban, arguing that the author, Lebanese journalist Carole Dagher, had failed to obtain a special permit for publication.

The measure was the first of its kind in Lebanon, where internal security authorities are empowered to ban books even after publication if they lack the proper clearance.

AL-NAHAR on Tuesday published two pages from a chapter relating the events leading to 'Awn's ouster in October 13, 1990, by a Syrian-Lebanese military offensive.

'Awn, the head of a former military government, had refused to yield to the authority of pro-Syrian President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

He currently lives in exile in France, where he was offered political asylum.

Other Media Censored

NC0602121192 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 6 (AFP) - Lebanese authorities on Thursday banned the publication of an interview of renegade Christian leader General Michel 'Awn.

Police ordered the Arabic-language daily AL-DIYAR not to publish an interview of 'Awn, a spokesman for the paper said.

He added that a private television station was banned Wednesday from broadcasting the same interview and that authorities had demanded that AL-DIYAR hand over a videocassette of the interview. [passage omitted]

Speaker al-Husayni Leaves for Vatican

NC0502100592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left Beirut today on an official visit to the Vatican where he will meet with Pope John Paul II and senior officials.

Loan Guarantees to Israel Would Kill Peace Hopes

JN0502150792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] While Israel plainly announced that it will not suspend the establishment of settlements and that it will persistently work to expand them in the occupied Arab territories, any talk about loans to Israel from this or that party comes as support for the principle of settlements, and a sign of encouragement for Tel Aviv to pursue this policy which conflicts with the most basic concepts of peace. We should view from this angle the statements and talk we are now hearing on the issue of the loan guarantees which has once again become a topic in the dialogue under way between Washington and the Zionist government.

What we and the world know is that Washington, through its ranking officials, has repeatedly affirmed that it is against the Israeli settlement policy. It has also said on more than one occasion that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is the biggest obstacle to the peace process. What we and the world also know is that the United States is the one that launched the famous peace initiative on whose basis the peace conference was held in accordance with two clear principles which have not changed: implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the exchange of land for peace. We should also not forget that the United States is also one of the sponsors of all stages of the peace conference, and the one that is eager to push the peace process along every time it becomes paralyzed.

So long as this is Washington's stand on the peace process, how then can this stand be in line with any financial assistance the United States offers to Israel under these circumstances, particularly since Tel Aviv has not, as yet, undertaken any step that could serve the peace process or bring peace closer? How can anyone in the world ascertain that Israel will not use the U.S. loans to build settlements, particularly when Tel Aviv has announced as clearly as possible that it will not accept anybody control over its budget or over its budgetary allocations?

The Israeli plan, which no one now ignores, forcefully proceeds toward completing the requisites of complete control over the occupied Arab territories through new immigrants that Israel brings in from the four corners of the earth, and for whom it builds housing units in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. The realization of this plan requires billions of dollars. This leads us to believe that the loans Israel insistently asks for from the U.S. Administration will only be allocated to the plan that conflicts with any serious endeavor for peace.

Will Washington accept being simultaneously for and against peace? Can anyone in the world deny that U.S. financial guarantees to Israel, if they materialize, would be a lethal blow to the peace conference and to the world's efforts to attain a just and comprehensive settlement?

The world now expects Washington to bring pressure to bear on Israel to retract its intransigent stand, which has made the peace process a vicious circle, so that the world can realize peace. We do not believe that giving financial assistance to Israel at this time will serve this purpose. On the contrary, it will destroy it at its very foundation.

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Meets With Opposition Leaders

Hekmatyar Urges Replacing 'Puppet Regime'

BK0602012492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1903 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 5 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar linked Wednesday a public renunciation of the Kabul Government by the United Nations with his cooperation in the peace effort, a report said here.

The UN should announce that the "present puppet regime" in Kabul "is not acceptable to the people of Afghanistan and it should be replaced by an interim government," Hekmatyar told UN special envoy Benon Sevan, the Afghan News Agency (ANA) reported.

The influential Hekmatyar, who met with Sevan for two hours, offered to cooperate with UN efforts to resolve the 13-year Afghan conflict on the condition the United Nations made the announcement, the report said.

Sevan, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali's personal envoy, has had a series of separate meetings here with Afghan resistance leaders, tribal chiefs, religious scholars and intellectuals to pave the way for an intra-Afghan peace meeting.

Only one resistance leader, Etehad-e Eslami chief 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, refused to receive him, sources here said. The UN mediator is due to return Thursday to Islamabad, where he is based.

His reaction to Hekmatyar's demands, if any, were not reported.

Sevan is to visit Kabul and Tehran this month as part of his effort to convene the intra-Afghan assembly by mid-April in Switzerland, Turkey, or another Moslem country, sources said.

Hekmatyar made it clear to the UN envoy that his Hezb-e Eslami Party would not accept any "imposed settlement" in Afghanistan, and quoted him as saying that if the United Nations made the renunciation he demanded, his group would provide a list of "uncontroversial figures" to form an interim government, ANA said.

Instead of pursuing an "impracticable, rough course," the United Nations should seek individuals acceptable to the rebels, thereby making a solution to the conflict "easy," Hekmatyar was quoted as telling Sevan.

The radical leader said his party wanted no share in an interim government, nor would it allow any "controversial" person to head such an administration. He also rejected any role for ex-monarch Zaher Shah, saying he was "not a party to the Afghan conflict, nor can he play any role in war or peace."

The United Nations favours the formation of an interim Afghan government until elections can be held.

The Hezb-e Eslami leader said that of 25 resistance groups, 22 were opposed to "any sort of negotiations" with Afghan President Najibollah or Zaher Shah, according to the report.

Najibollah Not Invited to UN Talks

BK0602005892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1849 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 5 (AFP)—The UN envoy for Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, stepped up efforts this week to convince resistance factions to join peace talks with the Kabul Government, Afghan and Western sources said.

Sevan met Wednesday with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the Sunni Hezb-e Eslami faction and a leading opponent of any negotiations with Kabul representatives.

Hekmatyar's ANA News Agency said that during another meeting Wednesday with a Shi'ite rebel faction, Sevan assured them that neither President Najibollah nor his Watan (Homeland) party would be invited to an intra-Afghan peace assembly that the United Nations wants to organise in the coming months.

Sevan is representing UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali and is to travel to Kabul on Sunday and on to Tehran on Tuesday. He had no comment, but sources said his meetings, which began here Monday, "were going well."

Sevan was expected to return to his base in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on Thursday.

Before leaving Peshawar he was expected to meet with a large number of opposition and guerrilla figures based here, including military commanders, tribal and religious leaders, intellectuals, and chiefs of resistance political parties, including three of the four fundamentalist factions opposed to the UN peace effort.

Only Rasul Sayyaf, chief of the Islamic Etehad-e Eslami group, refused to meet Sevan.

At the request of Butrus Ghali, Sevan has recently stepped up his efforts to bring about an intra-Afghan dialogue before mid-April, either in Switzerland, Turkey, or another Moslem country.

The United Nations favours the emergence of an interim Afghan Government until elections can be held, following the January 1 halting of arms shipments to the combatants by Moscow and Washington.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran have put their support behind the UN efforts to end a conflict that has caused more than one million deaths and the exodus of an estimated five million Afghans.

Sources said it was certain that Sevan would travel to several Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

Bangladesh

German Minister Discusses Ties With Rahman

BK0502131492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Germany reviewed the state of bilateral ties and discussed all matters of mutual concern, including the international scenario, at a meeting in Dhaka Wednesday. The review meeting took place when the visiting German deputy foreign minister, (Helmut Schaeffer), called on Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman at his office. The meeting was characterized by warmth and cordiality in the context of close bilateral relations that exist between the two countries. The talks covered wide range of issues, including the foreign policy orientation of the united Germany, Eastern Europe, situation in the Russia, and Middle East peace conference. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman also gave an account of Myanmar [Burma] crisis and relations with the neighboring countries, including India, Pakistan, and progress toward the realization of the objectives of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

India

Gun Battles Reported in Kashmir

BK0502161192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Srinagar, India, Feb 5 (AFP)—Gun battles erupted between rebels and troopers as thousands of Kashmiris took to the streets Wednesday in a show of Moslem support for the province's secession from India, witnesses said. Moslem secessionists shot dead a paramilitary trooper in a firefight Wednesday in which a militant also lost his life in Srinagar, summer capital of troubled Indian-held Kashmir, police and witnesses said.

Moslem snipers fired on two security pickets here, prompting troopers to launch search operations in Srinagar, which is also the urban hub of the Kashmiri secessionist campaign, to flush out the gunmen, the witnesses said.

Similar firefights flared in the apple-growing town of Sopore and in Baramullah where, as in Srinagar, thousands of residents took to the streets in support of Kashmir's secession from India, reports said.

Indian security officers in full riot gear drove through the streets in Srinagar as staccato bursts from automatic weapons echoed across the paralysed city. Paramilitary troops were stationed in several areas here and used "spotters"—guerrillas who have surrendered to the government—to scan the few people on the streets for suspected militants.

Some 12,000 Moslems marched for about a kilometre (mile) from Srinagar's downtown Chattabal district to a hospital where armed Indian security personnel dispersed them with baton charges, the witnesses said.

The marchers raised slogans supporting Kashmir's independence campaign and hailing Pakistan, which observed a simultaneous shutdown Wednesday in a gesture of solidarity with the separatist struggle in the disputed Indian state. Three marchers were injured and later hospitalised when securitymen broke up another rally in Srinagar's Kakasaria district, they said. Shops and offices remained closed during Wednesday's shootouts and the general anti-India strike, the witnesses added.

The demonstration, timed to coincide with the one-day Pakistani action, was sponsored by hardline Islamic groups such as Al Burq, Hizbul Mojahedin and Jamiat-e-Islami, but not by the equally powerful Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). The JKLF on Wednesday reiterated its promise to push ahead with plans for a cross-border march led by its chief, Amanullah Khan, from Pakistan to India next week.

"Our party wants to cross the Line of Control, which divides Kashmir and has added miseries since 1947," JKLF's regional commander Javed Mir told AFP by telephone, referring to the planned February 11 march.

Undivided Kashmir was partitioned between India and Pakistan soon after the subcontinent gained independence from the British in 1947. The two neighbours have since fought two wars over the dispute. The far-northern province is India's only Moslem-majority state.

Unlike the Moslem fundamentalist groups, which want the Indian-held Kashmir to accede to Pakistan, the JKLF, the oldest rebel organisation in Kashmir, seeks freedom for both parts of the province. Mir, however, also hailed the government-sponsored Pakistani shutdown, which has drawn criticism from New Delhi.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and harbouring the Kashmiri militants. It has also warned that the border crossing by the JKLF will be prevented at all costs.

Government Warns Pakistan Against Border Crossing

BK0502125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] India has warned Pakistan that any attempt by any group to cross the Line of Control will lead to unforeseeable consequences and New Delhi will take firm measures to deal with such moves. This was conveyed to the Pakistani high commissioner, Mr. Abdul Sattar, who was summoned to the Foreign Office today by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit. The envoy was also informed of New Delhi's serious concern over his regrettable remarks on Kashmir in an interview to a daily, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's call for a nationwide strike today to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir, and the reported plans to cross the Line of Control on Tuesday [11 February] next. Mr. Dixit told Mr. Sattar that all these actions clearly inflame public opinion and vitiate the atmosphere in the bilateral relations.

Mr. Sattar was told that the Government of Pakistan should take all steps to prevent any untoward incident along the Line of Control. It was made clear to him that India will take all firm measures to uphold its territorial integrity.

The Congress-I says that the anti-India campaign by Pakistan cannot be a recipe for solving the domestic problems in that country. Reacting to the reported statements on Kashmir by the Pakistani ambassador, Mr. Abdul Sattar, the party spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, told newspersons in New Delhi today that Kashmir is an integral part of India and any problem between the two countries on that issue should be solved only under the Simla Agreement.

Janata Dal Dissidents Elect President

BK0502160592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The Janata Dal dissidents have elected Mr. Ajit Singh as the president, claiming themselves to be the real Janata Dal. The requisition meeting of the national executive was held in New Delhi today, demanding disciplinary action against Mr. S.R. Bommai, Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Mr. Sharad Yadav, and others, holding them responsible for the party's debacle in the last general elections.

Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the party, Mr. Rashid Masood, claimed that over 40 of the 75 members of the national executive attended today's meeting. He also claimed that those who attended the meeting included 10 members from the Lok Sabha and one from the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Masood informed newsmen that they will approach the Election Commission to claim the name and symbol of the Janata Dal.

Iran

Argentina Cancels Nuclear Agreement With Iran

LD0502163392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The Government of Argentina has had to renege on its agreement to cooperate with Iran on nuclear research because of mounting pressure from Washington. A Latin American diplomat in the UN Organization has told IRNA that the decision of the Government of Argentina was adopted precisely due to pressure from the United States Government.

According to the same report, the Government of Argentina yesterday canceled an agreement to the tune of $12 million on cooperation with Iran in scientific research and the delivery of equipment for nuclear research laboratories. The cooperation and the related research projects are totally for peaceful and scientific purposes.

Air Force Deploys MiG-29, Sukhoy-24, F-7 Planes

LD0502205192 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Semnan, Feb 5, IRNA—Iran has deployed the MiG-29, Sukhoy-24 and F-7 fighter planes in its Air Force, disclosed Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari here today.

He said the Air Force was now in a "very good position" regarding equipment, installations and personnel.

The Air Force has been very successful in manufacturing the spare parts and carrying out the necessary repairs on the fighters, he added.

"Most of the Air Force planes which sustained damages during the imposed war, have been repaired and put into operation," said Sattari.

Velayati Says Rushdie Death Sentence 'Not Changed'

NC0402135192 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Larnaca, Cyprus, Feb 4 (AFP) - Iran's policy on British author Salman Rushdie—sentenced to death three years ago by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni—has not changed, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali 'Akbar Velayati said here Tuesday. "Our policy is the same as previously," Velayati told a press conference during a meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in the Cypriot southern coastal resort of Larnaca.

Khomeyni, Iran's former spiritual guide, sentenced Rushdie to death on February 14, 1989 on charges of blasphemy against Islam in the book "The Satanic Verses."

The Indian-born author has since been in hiding under British police protection and rarely ventures out in public.

Crowds Stage Protest Demonstrations in Tehran

TA0402175892 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The citizens of Tehran gathered on Sunday and Monday mornings in front of the Intercontinental and Hyatt Hotels and the Ministry of the Interior. The reason that demonstrations were held opposite these hotels is that the foreign guests attending the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations are being housed there. The report adds that at 1100 thousands of Tehran citizens rallied in front of the Ministry of the Interior. While chanting sharp antiregime slogans, the crowd protested against the ceremonial and costly 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies and shouted: We want bread, we want kerosene.

Demonstrations in front of the Ministry of the Interior continued until noon. Then, after the arrival of the special forces, the demonstrators left for the hotels in which the regime's foreign guests are staying and began chanting slogans against the regime's leaders. The latest reports received this afternoon indicate that there is

unrest in Tehran and that protest demonstrations and marches have taken place in different parts of the city.

Pakistan

Indian Spokesman's Comments 'Regrettable'

BK0602050892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Pakistani Government has expressed deep regrets at the content, tone, and unfriendly manner of the statement issued by the Indian External Affairs Ministry's official spokesman in connection with the interview given by the Pakistan high commissioner in India to the Indian newspaper PIONEER. An official spokesman said in Islamabad that it is highly regrettable that the Indian official had made a shoddy personal attack on the high commissioner and questioned his motivation, responsibility and status. The views expressed by the high commissioner are in full accordance with and reflect the Pakistani Government's stand, which has been made clear on many occasions. There is nothing in the interview, as claimed by the Indian spokesman, which can be construed as aiming to disrupt the process of normalization of India-Pakistan relations. The fact is that the high commissioner has emphasized the need to solve all outstanding issues, especially the Jammu and Kashmir issue, to promote the process of normalization of relations.

The Pakistani spokesman said the Indian spokesman's suspicion definitely is not conducive to the normalization of India-Pakistan relations, and hoped that the Indian Government will see to it that no such unwarranted, impetuous, and virulent statements are issued again.

Kashmir Solidarity Day Speeches, Clashes Reported

BK0502150392 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] A day of solidarity with the struggling people of occupied Kashmir was observed in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir today. The day was observed on the call of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to invite world attention toward the Indian reign of terror let loose in held Kashmir. A general strike was observed throughout Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to mark the day. Government offices, business centers, educational institutions, and cinema houses remained closed, and transport remained off the road to express resentment at atrocities of the occupation forces in held Kashmir. The day was aimed at highlighting unprecedented Indian brutalities, terror, oppression, repression, and persecution let loose on the people of occupied Kashmir by Indians. The session of the National Assembly was also postponed for a day as a mark of solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who returned from Geneva last night, flew to the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir. Addressing a big public meeting, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the government and people of Pakistan will continue their just support for the success of the Kashmiri people's struggle to attend their right to self-determination. The prime minister was given a rousing welcome when he reached the venue of the meeting. The prime minister highly commended sacrifices rendered by the freedom fighters and said their struggle will definitely succeed. The people cannot be deprived of their just right in this changed global situation. He said by expressing its complete solidarity with Kashmiris, the nation has made it clear that the freedom fighters are not alone in their struggle, but millions of people in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir are standing by them.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said after his return from abroad, he decided to exchange views with the government of Azad Kashmir on the Kashmir issue and a common strategy would be evolved for the struggling people of held Kashmir. The prime minister said Kashmiri people are struggling for their independence from the Indian occupation and their blood will not go to waste. He expressed the hope that Kashmiris will soon get independence from Indian clutches. The prime minister said generous funds would be provided to Azad Kashmir for making it a model developed area.

Addressing the rally, the Azad Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan lauded the role and efforts of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and his government for resolving the Kashmir issue. Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has undertaken a tour of Muzaffarabad at a time when Kashmiris are offering their blood for their just struggle. He hoped that the present government in Pakistan will succeed in resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and UN Security Council resolutions.

A large number of processions and protest rallies were held throughout the country on this occasion. The processions were attended by a large number of people representing all walks of life. The demonstrators were carrying placards and banners condemning Indian brutalities in held Kashmir.

Pakistan Television correspondents say it was a day of complete unity with the people of Kashmir. Our correspondents report that the day is a message to the people of held Kashmir from the people of Pakistan that they do not only share a common culture and religion, but their hearts beat in unison. Kashmiris living in [word indistinct] and government offices remained closed and traffic remained off the road.

It says a curfew was continuing in capital Srinagar. There are also reports of fierce clashes between freedom fighters and Indian troops throughout the valley. At least four occupation troops were killed in the clashes. According to another report, one person was killed and three wounded in a bomb blast which rocked Srinagar television station yesterday. The blast also caused extensive damage to the building. A bomb also exploded in the radio station damaging its building.